

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATION

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Applicants: James V. Albanese et al.

Serial No.: 09/656,769

Filed: 09/07/2000

For: PILE WEATHERSTRIPPING

Examiner: Jennifer A. Boyd

Art Unit: 1771

Atty. Docket: ULB-002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX CPA
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please add the following new claims for examination in this Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) in addition to the claims in the case as amended by the Amendment After Final Rejection, filed January 10, 2003, which, Counsel understands from the Examiner has been entered. The original claims are believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed January 10, 2003.

The following new claims are along the lines kindly suggested by the Examiner.

Inasmuch as the pile is flat by virtue of the strands being under tension and thereby prestressed or biased to return to straight condition (page 1, last full paragraph, and beginning of paragraph starting "Referring to Fig. 1" on page 4), and the bead or thread, locking fin and assembled by ultrasonic welding are additional features of the invention. The latter features are the subject of dependent claims in the new claims submitted herewith.

Please add the following new claims:

22. (new) A pile weatherstrip comprising a plurality of transversely oriented strands spaced in a longitudinal direction, said strands having a tendency to lie flat, such that said strands define a flat pile, said strands being connected together along a longitudinal axis extending between opposite ends of said strands, said flat pile being